



Edgewood Area - Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21010-5424

U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command

# M56 Smoke Generator System

## ***"THE COYOTE"***

**Mission:** The M56 Coyote enhances the division and corps commander's ability to deny the enemy information, protect his forces, and dominate the maneuver battle. Six M56 Coyotes form the smoke platoon. The M56 will operate in support of light and airborne maneuver units by disseminating smoke on the move and from stationary positions to defeat enemy sensors and smart munitions such as tank thermal sights, guided munitions, directed energy weapons, and other systems operating in the visual through far-infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.



**Characteristics:** The M56 Coyote is a motorized system mounted on an M113 Expanded Capacity High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV). The M1113 HMMWV has a gross vehicle weight of 11,500 lbs, which allows the maneuver element to fully load the M56 and still pull a trailer. The turbocharged 190 hp engine provides excellent mobility. The smoke generating system provides 90 minutes of visual and 30 minutes of infrared obscuration without resupply. The visual and infrared screens can deny enemy reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition (RISTA) devices information of troop strength, position, and movement and deny visual and infrared weapon systems kills on our combat units. A pre-planned Materiel Change to add a 30-minute millimeter wave (MMW) obscuring capability will defeat enemy radar RISTA devices and weapon systems. A Driver's Vision Enhancer (DVE) is currently being added to provide the additional capability to drive at night and under obscured conditions. A crew of two operates the M56 Coyote.

**Foreign Counterpart:** Countries using former Soviet doctrine emphasize extensive use of smoke during tactical exercise. Many nations, especially those in the Middle East, are beginning to realize the benefits of smoke and have developed programs in this area. Many potential threat countries are also acquiring enhanced thermal and infrared RISTA devices that make our forces more vulnerable without the use of smoke.

**Program Status:** The M56 Coyote was Type Classified in September 1994 and is currently in the production phase. Under an initial production contract awarded in March 1995, a total of 323 systems were produced by General Dynamics Robotic Systems. To meet the Army Acquisition Objective of 1,016 M56 systems by 2009, a second production contract was awarded to GDRS in Dec 00, and a third is scheduled to be competitively awarded in FY05. In addition, an FY00-04 development contract was awarded to Titan Systems Corporation in Sep 00 to add MMW screening capability to the M56. This capability will be added to the M56 starting in FY05.

**Projected Activities:** Fieldings to FORSCOM and USARC will continue as systems are provided to the Government from GDRS. The first MMW prototype will be tested during the engineer design test program starting in Oct 01. The DVE will be added to the M56 following its expected release in FY01.



For additional information, please contact Product Manager-Obscuration and Decontamination Systems, ATTN: AMSSB-PM-RNN-O, Aberdeen Proving Ground, MD 21010-5424. The Product Manager can also be contacted by E-mail ([pm.ods@sbccom.apgea.army.mil](mailto:pm.ods@sbccom.apgea.army.mil)), by telephone at (410) 436-2804 or DSN 584-2804, or by fax to (410) 436-8803.